

Jan 26, 1957

SD-2

# AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE**

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120

VOL. X, NO. 2

January 26, 1957



**LAST TRIBUTE TO THEODOR KOERNER.** Austria's President was buried with full honors on January 10. His grave at Vienna's Central Cemetery is beside that of his predecessor in office, Karl Renner. 250,000 lined the streets in silent tribute while the solemn funeral procession, headed by Chancellor Raab and members of his Cabinet, marched past. Among the mourners were representatives of many nations, including, West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano; France's Minister of Justice Francois Mitterand; and Andrei A. Gromyko, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR. The United States was represented by its Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson.

Requiem mass for Theodor Koerner was celebrated on the morning after the burial in Vienna's St. Stephan's Cathedral by Archbishop Koenig.

*The funeral procession passing the Austrian parliament. In the background the tower of Vienna's city hall, where the President's body had lain in state.*

**EISENHOWER, NIXON IN TRIBUTE TO KOERNER.** The following message from President Eisenhower was received by Chancellor Julius Raab on January 5th: "I wish to express to the people of Austria and to you personally my profound sympathy and that of the people of the United States at the death of President Koerner." Another message was received from Vice President Nixon, who had only very recently conferred with President Koerner on the Hungarian refugee problem. Koerner, the message read, "has for a long time been a symbol of the independence of Austria and of the leading role she plays in the humanitarian field."

**KOERNER'S SUCCESSOR TO BE ELECTED BY POPULAR VOTE ON MAY 5TH.** At a recent session of the Council of Ministers, the date for the election of the new Austrian president has been set for May 5th 1957. The Austrian political parties have not yet selected their candidates.

**REQUIEM MASS HELD FOR THEODOR KOERNER IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK.** A solemn requiem mass was held in memoriam of Theodor Koerner at St. Matthews Cathedral, Washington, D.C., on January 10. Among those present to offer condolences to Austrian Ambassador Karl

Gruber were Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle, Deputy Under Secretary of State Robert Murphy and members of the diplomatic corps. On January 12, requiem mass for the Austrian President was held at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Spellman presiding. Expressions of sympathy were offered to the Austrian U.N. Delegate Ambassador, Franz Matsch, and to Consul General Eduard Schiller by Prince Wan Waithayakon, President of the United Nations General Assembly; U.S. Ambassador Philip Bonsal; members of the diplomatic and consular corps, civic leaders and Austrians residing in New York.

**NEARLY 170,000 HUNGARIAN REFUGEES HAVE CROSSED THE AUSTRIAN BORDER.**

The number of Hungarians having sought asylum in Austria is now approaching the 170,000 mark; about 70,000 are still in Austria. According to an official estimate, Austria's capacity to absorb refugees is limited to 30,000 — a figure that does not include those who have arrived before the situation in Hungary had become explosive. Statistics show that young men in their early twenties, most of them unmarried, predominate among recent refugees; they account for roughly 70% of the total. A breakdown according to professions has not yet been completed; it is already obvious, however, that a large number of workers will be found among the escapees. It has also been established that more than 600 physicians have reported their arrival to the Austrian authorities.

**ICEM-FUNDS EXHAUSTED; REFUGEE AID IMPOSING EXCESSIVE BURDEN ON AUSTRIA.**

At a recent Cabinet session, Interior Minister Oskar Helmer reported on the refugee situation. While the number of refugees remaining in Austria still exceeds 70,000, efforts to find permanent or even temporary homes for them are again lagging, the Minister noted. In a single month (November 1956) the Austrian government had spent considerably more than three million dollars (83 million schillings) on refugee aid, about two thirds of which went into housing.

Austrian resources are taxed to the very limit, Minister Helmer declared; his talks with representatives of the International Committee for European Migration (ICEM), on the other hand, had not been very encouraging. At a recent meeting of that organization at Geneva, its deputy director, Pierre Jacobson, reported its funds to be practically exhausted; stoppage of further refugee transports from Austria had already been under consideration, Mr. Jacobson said.

Reporting on his communications with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. August R. Lindt, the Minister said that an understanding has now been reached according to which Austria has permitted a three-man repatriation commission of the Kadar government to interview Hungarian refugees in Austria. Measures have been taken to ensure the commission's safety, as well as to exclude any possibility of refugees being exposed to undue pressure.

This point was underscored by Foreign Minister Figl, who affirmed that no refugee willing to return to his country is being discouraged by the Austrian authorities; as soon as

he puts his signature to a statement that he is returning of his own free will, the Austrian border is open to him — as indeed it was when he arrived. So far, Foreign Minister Figl said, only 1360 Hungarians have decided to return.

**"AMERICAN FRIENDS OF AUSTRIAN CHILDREN" IN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF REFUGEES.** In order to be able to meet the emergency that arose when tens of thousands of Hungarian refugee children arrived in Austria. American Friends of Austrian Children, a charitable organization which has generously supported needy Austrian children in past years, has now redoubled its efforts; in an appeal stressing the urgency of its present drive, the organization invites contributions that will help carry the burden of its extended activities. (Donations may be sent to American Friends of Austrian Children, Inc., 202 East 19th Street, New York; Tel. GRamercy 7-4372 -- Ed.).

**POINT OF NO RETURN.** January 27, 1957, will mark the termination of the last provision under the State Treaty which still represents a limitation of Austria's sovereignty.

Part IX, Article 34, Paragraph 1 of the Treaty, under the heading "Chiefs of Missions," provides that, "for a period not to exceed 18 months from the time this Treaty goes into effect, the Chiefs of the Diplomatic Missions of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and France in Vienna shall jointly represent the Allied and associated powers vis-a-vis the Austrian Government in all matters concerning the execution and interpretation of the present Treaty."

Thus, the meaning of this provision is that the diplomatic representatives of the Four Powers could have set themselves up as a kind of "Allied Council" during the restricted period beginning July 27, 1955, in the event differences of opinion or other difficulties had arisen in connection with the implementation of the State Treaty. Since such difficulties did not arise, the termination of the provision, legally speaking, is of purely formal significance. It was considered good news in Austria, just the same.

**OIL DRILLING IN UPPER AUSTRIA.** Reflex-impulse explorations carried out by the RAG (Rohoel-Gewinnungs AG) have led to the discovery of a new oil-bearing structural unit in the area of Neukirchen-Aspach, Upper Austria. In order to expedite exploitation of the find, RAG has purchased an additional deep-drilling installation of latest American construction.

**SPAIN TO USE AUSTRIAN OXYGEN CONVERTER STEEL PROCESS.** A new steel plant under construction in Spain has been especially designed for the oxygen converter process originally developed by the United Austrian Iron and Steel works (VOeEST) in Linz, Upper Austria. The new project, built by the Altos Hornos Steel Company following their licensing by the Zurich subsidiary of VOeEst, will be the seventh installation in West Europe to use the Austrian process.



## AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH OVER LAST TWO YEARS AS REFLECTED BY THE NATIONAL PRODUCT.

To begin with 1955, a comparison with the 1954 figures shows the nature of the enormous upsurge in the Austrian economy during that year. It also indicates the shifts which have taken place in income, consumption, investment and contributions by the various sections of the economy.

A study of these developments has to be preceded by a review of the over-all effects of the State Treaty on the national economy. The gross proceeds -- i.e., the total wages and salaries earned, employers' profits, interest on capital and depreciation of the USIA (Russian-administered) plants, including the oil installations, are estimated at three billion schillings (approximately 25 schillings to the dollar - Ed.). Of this amount, oil accounted for 1.3 billion and the other industrial plants for 1.7 billion. Since the workers and office personnel of the USIA plants were almost entirely Austrians, their income was already included in the calculation of the country's national income. It is only the other components of USIA's gross proceeds, consisting mainly of profits from these plants, which represent additions to the Austrian national income since Mid-August 1955. This increase is estimated as amounting to 0.6 billion schillings for 1955 (i.e., for the last third of the year).

A study of the gross national product according to branches of the economy shows that industry and the building trade represented the starting point for the upsurge. As compared with 1954, these sections registered a real increase of 13 per cent and a nominal increase of 16 per cent in gross proceeds, as a result of which there was also a pronounced increase in services performed by the transportation and commercial sections. Agriculture and forestry showed a nominal increase of 5 percent (and a real increase of 3 per cent) in gross proceeds, figures which are also considered quite high. To sum up, the real gross national product was 11 percent higher than in 1954, and the nominal product 15 per cent higher.

### Salaries Increase at Higher Rate than Wages

National income in the more restricted sense (the sum of all incomes before taxation, originating through participation in the national economic gross-proceeds process) was 10 per cent higher than in 1954 on a real basis and 14 per cent higher on a nominal basis. As compared with 1954, the real increase in wages of labor and salaries of white-collar workers was 11 per cent (14 per cent) higher, income from property and undertakings 12 per cent (16 per cent). In both 1955 and 1954, 58 per cent of the national income was provided by wages and salaries. The average salaries of employees during 1954 and 1955 rose at a higher rate than the wages of workers (i.e. 9.7 per cent as compared with 7.4 per cent.) Exclusive of bonuses and supplementary earnings, office salaries were 8.4 per cent higher than in 1954, wages to labor were 5.5 per cent higher.

The trend of personal income is especially instructive. This is calculated by subtracting the direct taxes and social insurance contributions from personal income (gross income of natural persons before taxation).

Although the national income was only 14 per cent higher than in 1954, available personal income increased by 16 per cent, because direct taxes and social insurance contributions were only 8 per cent higher. In 1955, 90 per cent of this personal income -- as against 94 percent in 1954 -- was used for private consumption and the remainder was saved.

### Preference for Durable Consumer Goods

The real value of private consumption was 10 per cent (nominal 11 per cent) higher than in 1954. Above all, there was a much greater volume of purchases of durable consumer goods. Consumers expended 20 per cent more than in 1954 on household furnishings (furniture, carpeting, utensils, electrical equipment), 17 per cent more for education, training and entertainment, three times as much for acquiring passenger vehicles for personal purposes and 40 per cent more for motorcycles, motor scooters and bicycles. Outlay for food-stuffs represented 36 per cent, luxury articles 12 per cent and clothing 14 per cent of total consumer expenditure. As compared with 1954, there was a decrease in the percentage of outlay for food, luxury articles, rent, heat and light.

### Increased Income from Indirect Taxes

The budget shows that, as regards national income, the percentage contributed by indirect taxes continued to increase while that by direct taxes decreased. During 1954, indirect taxes yielded 38.5 per cent of total current receipts and 41.9 per cent in 1955; in 1954, direct taxes represented 30.4 per cent and in 1955 28.1 per cent of the total.

### 1956: Increase in Foreign Currency Reserves

In 1956, the gross national product reached a figure of 105 billion schillings. The 5 per-cent increase during the past year was less than that between 1954 and 1955, because during the latter period there was still an opportunity to draw on untapped reserves. In 1956, on the other hand, there was a general need for new investments. The increase by five per cent corresponds, however, to the average of the world economy.

A noteworthy fact is the favorable development of the balance of payments. In 1955, the Austrian National Bank's net foreign-currency reserves decreased by 1.5 billion, while in 1956 they increased by 1.3 billion. Thus, the balance of payments showed a surplus in 1956, as compared with the deficit in 1955. More specifically, this favorable development is attributable to a decrease in the trade-balance deficit from 4.9 billion in 1955 to 3.5 billion in 1956, and to a further increase in foreign-exchange receipts from foreign tourists. These figures are evidence that the excessive boom that had set in during the preceding year was brought under control and that the Austrian economy has been stabilized at a comparatively high level of prosperity. Factors in the effectiveness of these curbs were regulative measures introduced into the national budget, credit restrictions and, by no means least, the efforts to keep a rein on price-wage developments.

### Price Increases Exceed Wage Boosts

In 1956, real wages increased by 1.3 per cent: net scheduled wages rose by 5.2 per cent and living costs by 3.9

per cent. Since the net scheduled wages do not include Christmas and vacation bonuses or the various supplements which were increased in several branches of the economy during 1956, the actual increase in purchasing power probably amounts to about 3 per cent.

#### **Confidence in Austrian Currency; Stable Development Seen**

The decline in business involving capital goods which developed in 1956 will probably affect the consumer goods industry as well as commerce and small industry during 1957. Such a development by no means represents an unfavorable economic prognosis: it means, rather, that a fairly stable development may be expected in all spheres of the economy, including the price-wage sector. Economic expansion will continue, although the gross national product will probably increase henceforth at the rate achieved in 1956, i.e. by five per cent. Accordingly, the trend in trade and in the balance of payments will probably take a direction similar to that of 1956, so that a slight surplus in the payments balance can still be expected notwithstanding the fact that shipments to Russia under the State Treaty constitute a serious burden. There may therefore be a chance, when these commitments are fulfilled, for a sudden improvement in the balance of trade, as well as in the balance of payments.

Confidence in the Austrian currency will be further buttressed during 1957 by the issue of gold coins. More evidence of the stability of the schilling will be provided by the forthcoming adoption of a system of foreign-currency arbitration designed to establish a freer basis for the quotation of the schilling on foreign markets.

Lastly, economic policy during 1957 will have to give more thought than it has in the past to future automation of industrial plants, and special emphasis to an investment policy corresponding to these needs.

#### **SHARP INCREASE IN SALES FOR GARMENT INDUSTRY.**

Since January 1954, the number of women's dresses manufactured by the Austrian garment industry has increased by 60 per cent. The increase in the production of blouses was 70 per cent and in that of coats 200 per cent. In 1956, total sales amounted to 2.4 billion schillings (approximately 25 schillings to the dollar - Ed.). The industry directly employed a total of 33,000 persons (the figure would be 76,000 if those engaged in dependent industries were included), as against 17,000 in 1950.

Approximately 10 per cent of the industry's total output is exported. Austrian wearing apparel is found in the stores of 55 countries, including a number of overseas countries, such as New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and the Union of South Africa, providing export sales in 1956 for a value of 220 million schillings. This represents an increase of 10 per cent over 1955 but the upsurge is particularly noteworthy when a comparison is made with 1953, when the value of exports was only 128 million schillings.

Women's apparel accounts for an especially high percentage of these export figures: In 1953 it represented a value of 41.4 million, in 1955 it was 75 million and in 1956 it had reached approximately 90 million schillings.

#### **AUSTRIAN COMPANIES CONVERTING TO NATURAL GAS.**

For many companies in Vienna and Lower Austria, conversion to heating by natural gas appears to have become a particularly timely matter. A stimulus in this direction has been provided by the increasing fuel-oil shortage and by the rising price of coal. The petroleum refineries in the vicinity of Vienna are most concerned with this problem. These include the Shell Refinery in Floridsdorf and the Mobiloil Refinery in Kagan. The great advantages of natural gas are not only its production cost - which amounts to about half that for coal per unit of heat -- but the elimination of the need for stockpiling which is involved. In the case of coal and fuel oil, the latter factor ties down large amounts of capital.

Of course, large-scale investments are required if such advantages are to be achieved. However, companies which converted to natural-gas firing in 1952 have found that, by and large, they amortized their outlay within two to three years.

#### **AUSTRIA PLANNING THIRD ELECTRIC POWER LOAN.**

Every year the Austrian economy consumes more electric power. This means that during the year 1957 approximately 1.9 billion schillings will have to be allocated for expansion of power plants and the power-line system (approximately 25 Austrian schillings to the dollar - Ed.). However, only about 750 million schillings are available to the Austrian power economy from World Bank and domestic loans, which means that 1,150 million are still required. It is therefore planned to float a third electric power loan during the coming year, which, on the basis of previous experience, is expected to bring in 650 million schillings. The remaining deficit of 500 million would be made up by credit operations with foreign banks.

Pledges from the United States, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium justify hopes that it will be possible to raise the amount necessary for continuing the investment program during 1957.

The power-plant projects of the State Electricity Authority include those at Schwarzach-St. Veit (scheduled for full-scale operation in the winter of 1959), Ybbs-Persenbeug (full-scale operation in 1959), Reisseck (full-scale operation during 1959), Sankt Andrae (full-scale operation in 1958-59) and Voitsberg. The Voitsberg plant is nearly completed. These five projects provide steady employment for approximately 13,000 workers.

Power production by these five units will meet the requirements - increasing at a rate of about 7-8 percent annually -- of light and heavy industry and of household consumers until 1960. Increases in consumption after that time will have to be met by further expansion. Power-producing plants, inclusive of installations owned by industry and by the Federal Railroads, increased their production during January-October 1956 by 8.6 per cent over the comparable period in 1955.

---

*Readers are invited to reprint or quote material from*  
**AUSTRIAN INFORMATION**

---



**AUSTRIAN MUTUAL FUND FORMED.** Austrian banks recently formed an organization to be known as "Oesterreichische Investment Ges. m.b.H." (Austrian Investment, Inc.) which will act as trustee of the mutually-subscribed "SELECTA" fund. As a result of this step, Austria, following the example of other countries, now has its first mutual fund.

The "SELECTA" fund portfolio includes 20 domestic and eight foreign securities. This means that the stockholders are in any event assured of an average yield and a corresponding market value of their shares on the Vienna Securities Market. In buying shares in the fund the investor is purchasing a proportional share in all of the stock owned by the fund. The market quotation is made on the basis of an average quotation calculated every day. Accordingly, the owner of the shares can convert his investment whenever he desires. The distribution of dividends, which will take place on December 1 of each year, will be held for the first time in 1957.

**AMERICAN BANKER IMPRESSED BY AUSTRIAN RECONSTRUCTION.** Before his return to the United States after completing a fact-finding tour of Austria, Samuel Waugh, president of the United States Export-Import Bank, said that the primary purpose of his visit to Austria was to study the country's economic conditions. He declared that he was particularly impressed by the tremendous reconstruction work accomplished by the Austrian economy since the end of the war. He indicated that in his conversations with Government officials, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and economic and banking experts, consideration had been given to the possibilities of extending Austria's business relations with the Export-Import Bank. He said that these talks had had positive results and that a number of interesting prospects had been opened up. Among the transactions considered were a new, eight-million-dollar cotton loan, long-term and average-term loans for the purchase of American capital goods by Austrian enterprises and also a 19.3-million-dollar loan for the purchase of United States farm surpluses.

**AUSTRIAN 1956 EXPORTS CLOSE TO ONE BILLION DOLLARS.** The development of foreign trade during recent years has on the one hand, established a basis for increasing productivity, and on the other, it has meant a higher living standard of the Austrian people.

Exports have been increased from a value of approximately 10.8 million schillings (approximately 25 schillings to the dollar -- Ed.) in 1952 to about 20 billion in 1956. During the same period, imports rose from 14 to 23 billion. With a total foreign trade volume of 47 billion schillings, the deficit -- which in 1955 still amounted to 4.9 billion -- was reduced to 3.5 billion. The principal factors in Austria's foreign trade are the OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation) states, which accounted for 66 per cent of her trade. Austria's trade with the countries of Eastern Europe rose from 9.5 per cent in 1955 to 11.3 per cent in 1956.

**WINTER TOURIST TRADE INCREASING.** The Austrian tourist trade has gotten off to a good start in the present winter season and the figures for the previous season will probably be topped. During the winter holidays alone, 31 special trains arrived in Austria with foreign winter-sports enthusiasts, 17 trains from France alone. A noteworthy factor in this connection is the achievement of the Austrian Federal Railroads which were able to accommodate these extra trains on the one-track Arlberg stretch in spite of heavy winter traffic. Up to Christmas 1956, approximately 190,000 foreigners had availed themselves of the line's services.

Although no information on the subject is yet available, travel specialists are expecting a higher figure for overnight accommodations during the present winter season than in the preceding one. Among the reasons for the increase are the favorable snow conditions, the modernization of hotels and inns and the opening of chair tows and cable railways.

The hotels of Vorarlberg, Tyrol and Salzburg report high overnight-accommodation figures. According to conservative estimates, 12.4 per cent more foreign guests are expected in Styria this winter than last year. Lower Austria, 130 of whose hotels and inns have been made available to Hungarian refugees, also reports a satisfactory flow of visitors, a majority of whom are Austrian winter-sports enthusiasts.

**FINDINGS ON VIENNA'S POPULATION DECLINE.** The causes of the decrease in the population of Vienna have been the subject of detailed study. A group of experts aided by the Rockefeller Foundation has pinned the blame on the two world wars and on the unemployment during the thirties. These are the factors which explain, among other things, why there are 1300 women in the city to every 1,000 men. At the present time the large family unit has been reduced to an absolute minimum. In 1910, households consisting of two persons constituted 18 per cent of all families; in 1957, 37 per cent. On the other hand, families of six and more dropped from 23 per cent in 1910 to 2 per cent in 1951. Statistics also show that 42 per cent of the families in which the husband is under the age of 50 have no children, 37 per cent have one child and 16 per cent have two children. Particular attention was given to the number of families in which the children sleep in the same room as their parents. In 812 out of 1,185 families, the children -- 80 percent of them between the ages of 6 and 18 -- slept in the same room as their parents. In only 57 percent of these cases was this situation due to housing conditions. In 33 percent of the cases, it was an arrangement desired by the parents and not forced upon them by external circumstances. Apparently no concern was felt for the serious effects of such a situation on the emotional development of the children.

**COSMETICS CONGRESS IN VIENNA.** The Eleventh International Congress for Cosmetics will be held in Vienna from May 27-31, 1957. The meeting is organized by the professional association of Viennese cosmeticians, which estimates that it will be attended by approximately 1,000 guests, especially from France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the Netherlands, Finland and Italy.

**MORE WORKERS GET RETIREMENT BENEFITS.** Between July 1955 and June 1956, the number of obligatory insureds under the Workers' Pension Insurance Agency was between 1,099,087 and 1,225,415 and of voluntary insureds between 73,313 and 87,136. During the same period, 53,752 pension applications were processed and settled. The number of pensions being paid by the organization rose from 427,158 to 434,224. For every 1,000 insureds there were between 353 and 396 pensioners.

**EXPORT OF SPUN RAYON INCREASING.** Zelwolle Lenzing A.G., Austria's single large producer of staple fiber, increased its production and export of spun rayon during the third quarter of 1956. Between July and September 1956, a total of 10,440 tons of spun rayon were produced, compared with 10,274 in the third quarter of 1955. Total production from January to September 1956 rose to 31,510 tons, as compared with 39,610 tons for the entire year of 1955. Exports during the third quarter of 1956 rose to 5,650 tons, as against 4,718 tons during the comparable period of the previous year. Between January and September 1956, total exports of spun rayon amounted to 16,110 tons, compared with 12,680 tons between January and September 1955. During the first nine months of 1956, the plant exported its products to a total of 19 European and overseas countries.

The Lenzing plant is also operating at full capacity in the production of cellophane. The recovery of crystalline Glauber's salt from calcined sodium sulfate -- by-products of spun-rayon -- also were extensive during the first nine months of 1956. As a result, the entire domestic demand by sulfate cellulose plants, dye works, converting establishments, washing-agent plants and glass works was met.

**FIRE DESTROYS FAMOUS ARLBERG WINTER SPORTS RESORT.** The big St. Christopher Hospice on the Arlberg was destroyed by fire on the evening of January 6. The famous inn nearly 600 years old, was located on the Tyrolean side of the Arlberg (6,000 ft.), right below the top of the pass. The fire broke out immediately after midnight, apparently as a result of overheating in an electric oven. Since all three floors of the Hospice were built of wood, the fire quickly spread from room to room. Fortunately, there were no guests at the hotel and the staff was able to escape uninjured.

The hotel and auxiliary buildings were completely destroyed, and practically none of the inventory could be saved.

**PROTESTANT MEETING IN VIENNA.** The "Brussels Conference" has convened a meeting of all the Protestant church denominations in Europe, to be held in Vienna from February 12-17. The meeting, which was scheduled in consultation with the Austrian Evangelical Church, is expected to deal with problems of Protestantism.

**AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR PHYSICIST OFFERED U.S. PROFESSORSHIP.** Austrian physicist Ferdinand Cap, renowned for his research in nuclear physics, has been appointed full professor of theoretical physics by the University of Texas. Professor Cap currently lectures at Innsbruck University.

## CULTURE AND SCIENCE

**VIENNA FESTIVAL 1957 TO BE GREATEST YET: OPENING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 2ND.** Last year's Vienna Festival having been an outstanding success, it is now agreed that this annual event will be a permanent feature of the city's cultural life, and an added attraction for Vienna's foreign visitors. It is planned to make this year's Festival an even more sparkling occasion than the last. The Cleveland Symphony Orchestra will put in a guest appearance under George Szell; other guest conductors will be Ernest Ansermet and Eugen Jochum. The city's noted orchestras, the Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony, will also of course be heard. Paul Hindemith will personally conduct the first performance of his cantata, "Ite, angeli veloces," at the Konzerthaus. Another world premier will be that of Johann Nepomuk David's Requiem. Concert performances of modern opera will include works by Leos Janacek and Carl Orff; also on the program: shortened versions of operas by Ernest Krenek, Kurt Weill, Benjamin Britten and Gottfried Einem. At the State Opera, Maria Meneghini-Callas will appear in the title role of "La Traviata" under the baton of Herbert Karajan; other performances will include "The Tales of Hoffmann," conducted by William Steinberg; "The Tempest" by Frank Martin; and "Wozzeck" by Alban Berg. The Burgtheater will claim its share with a series of new productions including Shakespeare's "Cymbeline" and works by Grillparzer, Raimund and Nestroy; guest performances will be given by the Royal Copenhagen Theater and Finland's National Theater. At the Theater in der Josefstadt, Ernst Deutsch will take the leading part in Lessing's "Nathan the Wise." Several art exhibitions, among them a Fischer von Erlach exhibit, will also be held.

**1957 MOZART WEEK IN SALZBURG.** The anniversary of the birth of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart will henceforth be commemorated by the Salzburg Mozarteum every year, in the form of various artistic presentations. A decision to this effect was reached in connection with the planning for the Mozart festivals in honor of the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth. Salzburg's brief "Mozart Week" in 1957 will run from January 25-28, and will include a chamber music concert, two performances of opera at the Provincial Theater, a mass, an orchestra concert and a special matinee. Particular interest centers on the planned production of Mozart's opera buffa "La finta Giardiniera," under the artistic direction of Bernhard Paumgartner, who is preparing the version of the work to be used. The orchestral concert will feature the Vienna Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Anthony Collins (London), with Friedrich Gulda as soloist.

As part of the festival, there will be an exhibition of Mozartiana including documents from all over the world, programs, etc. dealing with the events of the 1956 "Mozart Year," designed to show how the composer was commemorated on the 200th anniversary of his birth.



**CANADIAN ESKIMO ART EXHIBITED IN VIENNA.** The Ethnological Museum in Vienna is at present featuring an exhibition of Canadian Eskimo art. The objects on display consist entirely of carved works, mainly of whetstone, serpentine and walrus ivory. The exhibition is a mobile one, which is being shown in various parts of Europe. It will remain in Vienna only until January 29, after which time it is scheduled to move on to Bonn, Germany.

**"GOOD ART FOR ALL"** A December exhibition held in Vienna and entitled "Good Art For All" was a great success, particularly over the holiday season. An annual event first organized in 1949 to increase public appreciation (and buying) of good paintings, drawings etc., the exhibition includes works of art contributed by all Vienna's artists' associations. The financial success of the show is evidenced in the steadily rising number of sales resulting from the exhibition; its cultural success can only be measured by the numbers of people who came to see and appreciate the entries, many of which were extremely "modern".

**VIENNA COMMISSIONS ART WORKS.** Last year, the municipality of Vienna commissioned Viennese sculptors and painters to produce a total of 132 works of art for the decoration of municipal housing projects. The fees made available for this work amounted to 3.5 million schillings (about 135,000 dollars), and the same amount has been allocated for the completion of similar projects during 1957. The commissions are awarded by the Cultural Affairs Office of the City of Vienna, in consultation with the architects in charge.

Since 1949, Viennese sculptors and painters have completed 68 statues, 147 reliefs, 134 mosaics, 71 sgraffiti, 5 fountains and 43 other works of art commissioned by the municipal administration. No fewer than 261 works of art, including 95 statues, are now being completed in studios.

#### **AUSTRIAN DOCUMENTARY FILM WINS PRIZE IN PARIS.**

The prize for experimental films awarded at the annual Paris competition for short subjects went to the Austrian picture "Mosaik im Vertrauen," produced by Peter Kubelka under the auspices of the Ministry of Education. The film depicts every-day events, such as the arrival of trains at railroad stations and the function of tracks and lamps.

Kubelka, a young Austrian film director, specializes in a unique, ultra-modern style of documentary, portraying the relationship between people and things and making lifeless objects appear as active protagonists.

#### **MOVIE DEPICTS AUSTRIAN "LASSIES" IN ACTION AGAINST AVALANCHES.**

The Styrian Land Government has agreed to subsidize the production of a motion picture on the rescue work carried out by the Austrian Alpine Rescue Service. Proud members of the service are 50 well-trained trackhounds whose chief function is assisting in the search and rescue of avalanche victims.

**"KISS ME KATE" IS HIT OF VIENNA SEASON.** During its 1955-56 season, the Vienna Volksoper gave 61 performances of "Kiss Me Kate," the longest run at any of the Vienna State theaters during the year.

**BALLET WORKS COMMISSIONED FOR VIENNA STATE OPERA.** A number of Austrian composers have been commissioned to write works for the ballet corps of the Vienna State Opera. One of them, Rudolf Wagner-Regeny is at present working on a ballet dealing with the Tristan legend. Theodor Berger is writing for a humorous dance to be known as "Heiratsannonce" (Wedding Announcement). The ballet "Medusa," for which Gottfried Einem is writing the music, is based on a text by Dale Hoffman, an American.

**YOUNG MUSICIANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD GOING TO VIENNA.** Over 1,000 music enthusiasts from every country in the world are expected to attend the 12th International Congress of the "Jeunesses Musicales," to be held in Vienna during the Whitsun season of 1957. An international youth orchestra is to be organized in conjunction with the meeting and Dimitri Mitropoulos and other conductors have indicated their willingness to conduct a number of concerts by this orchestra in Vienna and Salzburg during the summer of 1957. The "Austrian Young People's Orchestra," which is made up of 85 music students and amateurs, has been invited to give a series of 30 concerts in Belgium, France and Germany next March. The International Music Council of UNESCO and a Vienna patron of music have each contributed a sum of 13,000 schillings (one dollar equals approximately 25 schillings - Ed.) for the commissioning of compositions. The composers Paul Angerer, Peter Braunfellner and Kurt Schwertsik have been commissioned to write works for the Congress.

**RURAL EDUCATION REFORM IN AUSTRIA.** Austria has been experiencing a revolution in rural education, according to "Austrian Teachers and Their Education Since 1945," published by the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Widespread rural school reform has been a grassroots movement in which key rural educators trained in new educational ideas have played a leading role. These educators have set up workshops and demonstration classes for training country teachers in such fields as activities and visual aids. Local school councils have cooperated with the Austrian Ministry of Education in introducing integrated courses of study and a method of grouping according to ability. All teachers' training colleges have been included in a "Rural Schools Week" to acquaint them with the Ministry of Education's program for subsidizing some 6,000 rural schools which the teacher-trainees visit for firsthand experience.

At the pre-school level great progress has also been made, especially in rural areas, the publication notes. Regular nursery schools and kindergartens, usually run by qualified teachers, have been replacing the assorted collection of "child-care centers." In 1945 there were 600 kindergartens in Austria, the report adds, while this number was more than doubled by 1955.

**TYROLEAN "MUMMERS' PARADE" ATTRACTING WIDE ATTENTION.** Secret preparations are already being made by the "Shrove Tuesday Committee" to stage the famous "Imst Schemenlaufen" (Imst Mummies' Parade) on February 24th and questions about the event are pouring in from all sides. A movie company plans to film the parade in which "phantoms" and "shadows" cavort wearing wierd costumes and handcarved masks (see pic.). The "Schemenlaufen" is an ancient Alpine peasant custom which has been faithfully preserved through the ages.

**AUSTRIAN VIEWERS NOW ENJOY REGULAR TV-PROGRAM.**

Austrian Television, having made its first -- and highly successful -- appearance six months after the conclusion of the State Treaty when the festivities occasioned by the re-opening of the Vienna State Opera received expert coverage, has outgrown the experimental stage: Beginning this month, a regular program is being telecast daily, except Tuesday, from 8 till 10 p.m. Apart from special newscasts and other features not included in the regular schedule, an afternoon program will be seen twice a week. There being very few viewers as yet, commercial television is not a practical proposition in Austria. Owners of TV-sets pay a monthly fee of 50 schillings (about two dollars) to the state-owned network operating (and subsidized) as part of the Austrian State Radio.

*"Schemenlaufen" in Imst.*



## AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

### AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120



Miami University Library  
Periodical Record  
Oxford, Ohio